

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1. - 96. (Cancelled)

97. (Currently Amended) A connector for connecting a preform, which is for a microstructured fibre and which preform comprises a plurality of holes, to a pressure source, the connector comprising a plurality of chambers, ~~elements~~ wherein each chamber is arranged to mate with one or more of the holes of a preform, and wherein at least one of the chambers is arranged to mate with a plurality of holes of a preform, and each chamber element being connectable to a pressure source.

98. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 97, in which different ones of the ~~elements~~ chambers arranged to mate are connectable, individually or in groups, to different pressure sources.

99. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 97, further comprising a plurality of apertures arranged to receive ends of one or more of the tubes preform comprising in which the preform comprises a plurality of tubes, wherein the chambers are arranged so that tubes received by said apertures terminate in said chambers and the elements are chambers in which one or more of the tubes terminate.

100. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in ~~[[59]]~~ 97, in which each chamber is in fluid communication with a passage that is connectable to the pressure source.

101. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 99, in which the chambers are distributed in the connector in a plane substantially orthogonal to the direction in which ~~[[the]]~~ tubes of a preform connected to the connector are intended to pass through the apertures.

102. (Previously Presented) A connector as claimed in 101, in which the chambers are adjacent to the apertures.

103. (Previously Presented) A connector as claimed in 102, in which the chambers are recesses in a side of the connector.

104. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim ~~[[97]]~~ 99, in which the chambers are distributed in the connector along the direction in which ~~[[the]]~~ tubes of a preform connected to the connector are intended to pass through the apertures.

105.-107. (Cancelled)

108. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 99, adapted to receive tubes of different lengths.

109. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 99, wherein at least one dimension of each chamber orthogonal to the direction in which tubes of a preform

connected to the connector are intended to pass through the apertures is larger than the diameter of the individual tubes.

110. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 97, wherein at least one of said plurality of chambers is arranged to mate with a plurality of holes of a preform.

111. (New) A connector for connecting a preform to a pressure source, the connector comprising a plurality of chambers arranged in a stack, each chamber comprising a base comprising holes going through the base providing passage from the chamber to a neighbouring chamber in said stack, said chambers being connectable to a pressure source.

112. (New) A connector as claimed in claim 111, wherein said holes in said bases of said chambers are adapted to allow passage of a tubular shaped object from one chamber to a neighbouring chamber.

113. (New) A connector for connecting a preform to a pressure source, the connector comprising a first side and a second side, said first side comprising a plurality of recesses, said connector further comprising passages passing through said connector from said recesses in said first side to said second side of said connector.

114. (New) A connector comprising a plurality of sections arranged in a stack extending in a longitudinal direction from a first end to a second end, each section including a chamber and a plurality of holes extending longitudinally from the respective chamber in that section through to the first end of the stack, each of said chambers also including a respective passage connecting the respective chamber to

a port on the respective section so that each chamber is individually connectable to a respective pressure source.